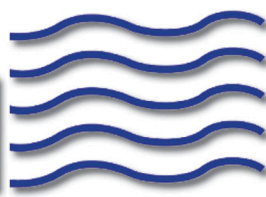




Sharing Hope Ministry



Sharing Hope N • E • W • S

JULY 2010
ISSUE NO. 56

—PHONE NUMBER—

Sharing Hope Ministry
806-358-7803

Patsy's Place
806-418-2480

—ADDRESS—

P.O. Box 19985
Amarillo, Texas 79114

—WEBSITE—

www.sharinghopeministry.org

—STAFF—

April Riggs, Executive Director
April@sharinghopeministry.org

Leigh Link, Volunteer Coordinator
Leigh@sharinghopeministry.org

Aletha White, Special Projects
Aletha@sharinghopeministry.org

—STATISTICS—

Total *Life Recovery Bibles* Distributed:
73,501

Total Bible Study Workbooks Distributed:
39,022

—VOLUNTEERS—

Pen Pal Volunteers: **8**

Office Volunteers: **50**

Prayer Group Volunteers: **15**

Stepping Stones Volunteers: **20**

Jail Ministry Team Volunteers: **14**

Special Event Volunteers: **150**

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Art Baker Chris Brady

Brenda Burns Shirley Daniel

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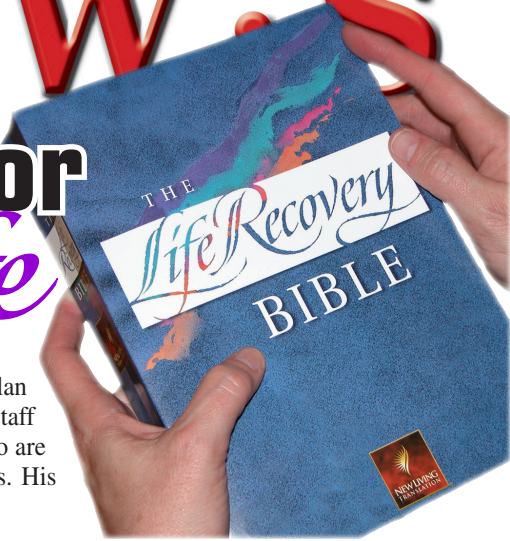
Jim Shelburne Yvonda Stokes

Vonnie White

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Holding On For *Dear Life*



Life at *Sharing Hope Ministry* is fast and furious. God's plan for this organization keeps volunteers, board members and staff on our toes. It's obvious that God cares for the women who are incarcerated and who are recovering from their addictions. His ministry is alive and well in Amarillo, TX.

What's going on in a typical *Sharing Hope* day? Bibles, Bible studies and prayer are being sent to women across the United States. With a total of seventeen new facilities being opened this year, God's Word is reaching thousands of women each month.

Our area women are being disciplined through our Jail Ministry Teams and the Stepping Stones Mentoring program. Husband and wife teams are delivering much needed hygiene supplies and resource lists to women who have just been released from jail, who have lost everything.

Hammers are flying as *Patsy's Place Transitional Home* is coming to life. With a projected opening date of December, action is the key word! Our hope is that this winter we can unveil the home that will bring a new life to women returning to Amarillo. While this is happening, we are finishing the program, purchasing educational materials, accepting furniture that is in good condition, and looking for volunteers who can give a little time and a lot of support to the special women who are seeking a Christian home while they learn how to live a new life.

And, as there is always a practical side to ministry, we are working on the events that increase awareness and generate funds which allow for the purchase of Bibles, studies and operating expenses for *Sharing Hope* and *Patsy's Place Transitional Home*. This ministry does not accept government funding which would limit our Christian outreach. As you read through this newsletter, I hope you find a place where you can serve.

"I must ask for your forgiveness. God has been prompting me to write this letter for over a month. Tonight I will be obedient. You sent me a Bible in May of 09. I wish you could see it. The cover is taped on and you can tell my favorite books from the almost transparent pages. I guess from the oil from my fingers. This Bible is my most prized possession. In it, I have found Jesus. I find comfort, direction, counsel and discipline. I have also found courage in the Word of God to stand alone.

I want you to know the impact that your ministry has had on my life. I want to thank you for sending me my Bible. I know it...it's my best friend. I just wanted you to know how blessed I have been and how important God's Word has become to me ~ like air."

Your sister in Christ ~ Jill W., Plane State

EXPANDING OUR BORDERS!



We are welcoming Minnesota as our 29th state eligible to receive *Sharing Hope Ministry* services! We are once again able to accept State and Federal facilities from new states. Since the beginning of the year, we have provided our services to seventeen new facilities. The need is great!

There are several ways to donate to *Sharing Hope Ministry*. Visit our website at www.sharinghopeministry.org to print off a donor form or use the optional Bank Draft Authorization form and each month your designated donation will be deducted from your account without the hassle of writing and mailing a check. The office also accepts MasterCard, VISA and the Discover Card.

Christmas in October

October 23rd and 24th at the
South Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center.

Are you ready for some fun? *Christmas in October* Gift and Craft Show is another great way to support Sharing Hope Ministry. Over 100 vendors from a tri-state area will be offering unique items that will make great Christmas gifts. Our famous Bake Sale will be offering beautifully wrapped items that can be eaten immediately or frozen and used during the holiday season. You can do all of your holiday shopping during this two-day event while helping Sharing Hope Ministry raise money to provide our services to women both locally and throughout the United States.

This event started years ago in the Fellowship Hall of a local church, and some of the original vendors are still participating with us. "Christmas in October" has grown and draws vendors from as far away as Colorado! Why has this event been so successful? It's because over 150 volunteers help by providing baked items, supplies, finances and time during this event.

Volunteer Opportunities

As we gear up for "Christmas in October", we have many volunteer opportunities available and would love to find a place for you! Please contact the office at 358-7803 or email aletha@sharing-hopeministry.org if you can help.

- We need both men and women as prayer warriors to pray us through this event. Email requests are sent out for you to pray over at your convenience.
- We need gift cards from Hobby Lobby to help us purchase the supplies.
- We need workers during the event. Can you work a 2-hour shift? Some shifts are "sitting" jobs if you'd prefer not to stand for the entire time.
- We need help distributing posters to area businesses.

We've had many friends help us in the past, but we've gotten so big that we can't always make personal calls to ask for your help! Please give us a call or email if you'd like to be involved.

Bake Sale Needs

We have PLENTY of Christmas ribbon, Christmas picks, and large platters. We do not need Lucite/plastic containers and we can't use the pretty holiday "tins", but we DO need:

- Autumn, Halloween, and Thanksgiving "wired" ribbon and picks.
- Baskets that are in good condition.
- 40" X 100" "Highlander" CLEAR cellophane wrap from Hobby Lobby.
- Assorted holiday paper shred/basket filler.
- We need cakes, bread, cookies, pies, candy and mixes! Sign up sheets will go out this fall, but you can email us if you can help or if you have a group that you can take a sign up sheet to. This is a great ministry opportunity for Bible study groups.
- We need workers who can help decorate the food items when they come in on Friday.

Why Should You Be a Sponsor for *Christmas in October?*

Individuals and businesses have begun to underwrite the expenses that are incurred while putting on this event. This financial assistance is beneficial for many reasons.

- Sponsorships allow ministry money to be spent on MINISTRY!
- Your gift of \$500 - \$2,500 is instrumental in allowing the ministry to raise over \$40,000.
- Sponsorships show our community that people support the work that is done through *Sharing Hope Ministry* and *Patsy's Place Transitional Home*.

Organizations or individuals that help underwrite expenses can request a free booth at the event to help promote their business or mission and also receive recognition of their support on promotional materials and in our newsletter. Amarillo loves businesses that give back to our community! If you can help, please contact the office at 358-7803 or designate your gift as a Christmas in October sponsor.



Patsy's Place

Transitional Home

A Program of Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc.

Renovations have begun on the building that will soon become a safe and Christian home to women returning to the Amarillo Community. As the walls are going up, other "building" projects are coming together.

Our volunteer Planning Committee is currently "building" the program that our women will participate in. This program will be Christ-centered as they work on their personal relationship with God, their recovery from crime and addiction, and learning important life skills that will help them be successful through the everyday situations that they will face. An important part of the program will be "building" the team of Christian volunteers who are willing to be part of their lives.

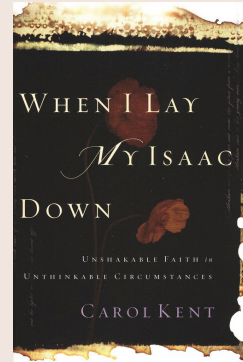
We have many volunteer opportunities available at Patsy's Place. Below is a list of a few needs that we have. Is God leading you to give some of your time and compassion to help a woman? We ask that you prayerfully consider giving an hour of your time each week and become the community of support for these women.

- Women Mentors ~ each client will have a female mentor who will meet once a week for spiritual encouragement. Mentors must attend a 22 hour Stepping Stones training class. The next training class starts September 18th.
- Transportation Coordinator and Volunteers ~ this is a great opportunity for husband and wife teams to serve together. Can you take a woman to an appointment one day a week?
- House sitters ~ there will be times that the Director will have to be off the premises. We need people willing to answer phones and be on the premises.
- Meals ~ Life Groups, Sunday school classes, social organizations would be a great fit to plan and prepare occasional meals for residents. This would be a wonderful time to interact and be a positive role model.
- Social/Party Planners ~ Can you help our clients celebrate a special event in their life? We need volunteers to bake cakes or a special meal, or provide an event for the women to interact with their children.
- Transition Team ~ help residents acquire furnishings and other items to start life when they graduate from our program.

Thank You!

Thank you to the Junior League of Amarillo
for purchasing the Recovery Curriculum and workbooks
for Patsy's Place Transitional Home!

"When I Lay My Isaac Down"



Sometimes we make sacrifices to help us get ahead, or allow us more time with family, or because we believe in the cause. And then there are sacrifices in which we have no say — "Isaac experiences" as in Genesis 22 — thrust upon us without warning or survival instructions. Gene and Carol Kent learned this in the process of facing the news that forever changed their lives. Their twenty-five year-old son, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with an impeccable military record, shot and killed his wife's ex-husband. Jason Paul Kent, long recognized for his exemplary character, now walks a path no one could have predicted - and his family lives in the after-math of a devastation most cannot imagine.

Carol's candid retelling of her emotional and spiritual agony will touch your heart. The principles the Kents learned in the process of surviving such unspeakable circumstances will bolster your faith, renew your hope and challenge you to new levels of personal and spiritual commitment. (Taken from "When I Lay My Isaac Down")

Carol Kent is popular international speaker best known for being dynamic and humorous. She is a former radio show co-host and a featured speaker at Women of Faith. We are excited to announce that Carol will be our guest speaker for Hope Fest 2011! I encourage you to plan to attend Hope Fest on March 24, 2011 and hear Carol's story. "When I Lay My Isaac Down" can be purchased online through Amazon.com, or you can contact the Sharing Hope office for help. Books will be also available for purchase at Hope Fest 2011.



Carol Kent

Become a

Friend of Sharing Hope Ministry

So what is a Friend? A Friend is anyone who wants to participate with the ministry but cannot commit to a regular volunteer position. Some of you have been unofficial Friends for years by providing in-kind services or volunteering when specific needs arise.

Our Friends will receive occasional emails when an unusual need arises. Just a few examples would be assisting with fundraisers, joining a Speaker's Bureau, restocking Bibles when our regular volunteer is out, helping with minor repairs, or passing on contact information of someone who can help us. This takes additional stress off of the staff that normally would make a personal call but hesitates wondering if they are asking too often or at an inconvenient time.

This program is simple and guilt free. An email will be sent to the group by one of our current board members. If you can assist with the need, contact our board member and let him know you are available. If you can't help, simply disregard the email. We understand that not everyone can be available or have the necessary skills for each project. As a group, you represent additional community support for the work that this ministry does.

To join, simply contact us at april@sharinghopeministry.org.



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